

# Nightlife Becomes Latest American Wartime Casualty Tonight

The Weather

Light Rain Tonight

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## The Waterbury Democrat

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Home, Final Edition

Late Sport News

Late News Flashes

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# TOKYO CENTER LEFT IN RUINS

## Stars And Stripes Fly Over Suribachi



Fighting Marines of the Fifth Division's 28th Regiment hoist old Glory on the highest point of the Suribachi volcano, overlooking the bloody beaches of Iwo Island. Platoon Sgt. Ernest Ivy Thomas, Jr., 21, of Tallahassee, Fla., was identified as Yank who raised our banner over battlefield.

## Report Reveals Surplus Of City Exceeds \$700,000

### 13,000 Dodge Men Strike

Detroit, Feb. 26 — (UP) — Union officials were ordered today to explain a strike at the main Dodge plant, which threatened curtailment of war production at all Chrysler Corp. plants.

The 13,000 Dodge strikers said they expected 600 maintenance and skilled tool and die workers to join the walkout, which started Friday over the discharge of seven aircraft department workers.

Officials of the Dodge local of the United Automobile Workers of America (CIO) were ordered to report at 10 a. m. for a show cause hearing before the WLB.

With 135 of Chrysler's 160 inter-plant truck drivers on strike, the walkout threatened to involve all of the company's war plants, which employ 100,000.

The union said it would rent a hall where "thousands of members" could wait to hear the result of the WLB hearing.

Meanwhile, another UAW local voted to return to work today at the Thompson Products Co. truck parts manufacturer. The 900 workers re-struck last Tuesday after a 10-day truce.

Dodge plant strikers voted at a three-hour secret mass meeting yesterday to stay out over the de-

### Reds Reduce Nazi Pocket

BY ROBERT MUSEL  
London, February 26. — (UP) — Soviet Armored Forces pushed to within 60 miles or less of the Baltic today in a powerful drive to split Germany's northern defenses.

Tanks and infantry struck out through Pomerania for the Baltic after breaching the Nazi line based in the Danzig-Settin railway at a point midway between those two big seaports.

A thrust to the sea in this area would slice off the northeastern tip of Germany, along with the Polish Corridor and the Free State of Danzig. Tens of thousands of German troops in the area would be cut off from all escape except by sea.

On the Berlin front, the Germans appeared to have thrown in their aerial reserves in an attempt to break up Soviet preparations for a frontal assault on the capital from their bridgeheads on the Oder, 30-odd miles to the east.

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(BY JAMES M. MOORE)  
A 1944 total surplus of over \$700,000 is indicated for the city according to figures contained in the recently published statement pertaining to tentative means of financing post-war projects, and released in Saturday's Democrat.

According to respective figures contained in the complete report the city, as of Dec. 31, 1944 had an estimated balance of \$402,000 to which is to be added an additional \$300,000 to constitute the total surplus. Of the total, the sum of \$402,225.92 has already been earmarked for use in financing the 1945 city budget. The surplus is comprised of \$308,000 from unexpended balance of 1944 plus coverages in collections of taxes, last year.

No official estimate of the surplus is ready for publication at this time although it is expected it will be forthcoming shortly. It is usually March before such estimates are available.

Relative to the tentative plan for financing the post-war projects as compiled by the city plan commission, and to be financed at an anticipated cost of \$9,918,530 over a six-year period, the following percentages have been estimated as to the sources from which the total cost will be carried: Cash surplus account, 0.24 per cent; Reserve Fund, 29.96 per cent; Special Assessments, 0.12 per cent; Other Governments, 18.59 per cent and Bond Issues, 45.97 per cent.

As stressed in Saturday's story in "The Democrat" the new-year plan and all it embodies is, at this time, but a tentative plan subject to changes as affected by the future. Such changes may mean delay in the undertaking of certain phases or possibly (although the latter slight) of acceleration of the structural phase of the program.

The current statement of plans

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### Few Grumble Over Curfew

(By United Press)  
Nightlife becomes America's latest wartime casualty tonight.

Promptly at the stroke of midnight every bar, cabaret, movie bowling alley and other amusement place in the nation must turn off its lights and lock the doors under a government curfew aimed at saving fuel, manpower and transportation.

Hope for a last minute reprieve in New York, capital of cafe society, ended yesterday when Mayor Fiorello La Guardia told operators of nightclubs and other amusement places that the curfew must be obeyed.

New York operators had hoped that La Guardia had won a concession for them during the two days he spent in Washington last week. But La Guardia said he could promise them nothing more than:

"Reasonableness will be exercised during the week for adjustment."

Throughout the nation there was scattered grumbling, but the general tone was willingness to obey the curfew as a specific war aid. The ban on after-midnight festivity was expected to continue until the end of the war in Europe at least.

In a last fling of early morning gaiety, the public wound up its merrymaking early today in New Year's fashion wherever blue laws did not interfere.

In Hollywood night clubs had the biggest Sunday night since New Year's. Many places in New York were jammed with unprecedented Sunday night crowds. Most of the corner taprooms seemed to have had

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## Battle To Get War News Back From Iwo Tough One

Guam, Feb. 26 — (UP) — The battle to get the war news back from bloody Iwo Island is a tough one.

The hardships of civilian war correspondents, Marine combat correspondents, Navy, Marine and Army Public Relations personnel on Iwo were disclosed in a letter from United Press Correspondent Mac Johnson aboard an expeditionary flag-ship off Iwo.

The letter, dated February 23, said that the first story from Lisle Shoemaker, United Press Correspondent on Iwo, arrived aboard ship "in a blood saturated envelope."

"It must have been the messenger that got it," Johnson said, "because there were no holes in Lisle's copy."

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## ALLIED UNITS NOW 14 MILES FROM COLOGNE

BY BOYD D. LEWIS  
Paris, February 26. (UP) — Four Allied armies ripped through Germany's western defenses on a blazing 150-mile battlefield today in a general offensive that rolled the enemy's vital Rhineland line back within about 14 miles of Cologne.

London press dispatches said the bomb-scarred spires of Cologne could be seen by the advancing Americans. Captured German soldiers reported that the city itself was in ruins with only a handful of civilians remaining there.

The entire German defensive system guarding the Ruhr and Rhine was buckling under Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's battering rain attack and the merciless pounding of thousands of Allied warplanes.

Field dispatches reported increasing signs of German demoralization, particularly on the southern wing of the offensive front where Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's American Third Army was beginning to roll in a wide end run toward the Moselle Valley and Coblenz on the Rhine.

The American First and Ninth Armies, estimated by German propagandists to number 600,000 men, were believed to have captured well over 6,000 Nazis in the first three days of their offensive. Coupled with enemy losses in killed and wounded, the prisoner bag indicated that the six Nazi divisions originally facing the Roer offensive rapidly were approaching disintegration.

All Allied armies in the west were disclosed officially to have taken 40,000 prisoners thus far in February, about 12,000 of them on the Canadian First army front.

Patton's advance and a renewed drive on the Ruhr by Gen. H. D. G. Crear's Canadian First Army in the north poised a deadly thrust to the flanks of the hard-pressed Nazi divisions falling back across the Rhineland on Cologne.

There the American First and Ninth armies were swinging out more than seven miles beyond the shattered Roer river line in giant strides against surprisingly weak resistance.

Four days after the start of the big push for the Rhine, the Germans still had been unable to launch a single major counter-attack and had lost the key heights overlooking the Roer from which their big guns might have been able to halt the flow of American tanks and supplies into the Rhineland.

A score of fortified German towns and villages fell to the Americans in

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## Bombs Again Rock Berlin

By LEO S. DISHER  
London, Feb. 26 — (UP) — Almost 2,000 American warplanes rocked Berlin with a 60-minute broadside of bombs and gunfire today.

Carrying the record aerial offensive into the realm for the 14th straight day, the U. S. Eighth Air Force sent more than 1,200 Flying Fortresses and Liberators thundering over the heart of the Nazi capital to bomb and burn Berlin's railway yards.

More than 700 long-range Mustangs and Thunderbolt fighters covered the big raiding fleet and poured their cannon and machine gun fire into the burning city.

The attack was directly in support of the Red Army forces massed along the Oder river line 30-odd miles east of Berlin.

Berlin's railway lines are considered vital to the Nazi war effort, and the city is the last major German supply and transport hub. Virtually all the supplies and troops moved from other sectors to the eastern front must pass through Berlin.

The size of the raiding fleet indicated today's attack was probably the heaviest yet for the sixth straight night. The air ministry said the Mosquitos had dropped 400 tons of explosives on the capital in the past week.

Erfurt, Mainz and Bremen also were attacked by the RAF last night.

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## Assassinated



Premier Ahmed Maher Pasha of Egypt was cut down by and assassin's bullet just after he had completed his address to the Egyptian Parliament, declaring war on the Axis.

## Trapped Japs Ignore Terms To Surrender

By WILLIAM B. DICKINSON  
Manila, Feb. 26 — (UP) — Trapped Japanese in Manila ignored a surrender ultimatum today and American troops immediately began an annihilation drive against the enemy remnants holding out in three government buildings.

The final assault on the last enemy pocket in the capital came as other American forces pushed into the foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountains east of Manila in an attack on the 25-long Kobayashi line.

An estimated 1,000 fanatical Japanese, believed commanded by Rear Admiral Iwabuchi, were lodged in the three buildings and faced certain doom.

They had been given three choices in the ultimatum—suicide, a fight to death, or honorable surrender. Their only reply was sniper fire while the edict was being read over the public address system.

Assault on Buildings  
When the deadline passed at daybreak, American guns opened fire and the troops prepared for an assault on the buildings to clean out the last resistance in Manila.

With the city virtually clear, other American troops resumed their drive toward Luzon's eastern coast with an offensive against the Kobayashi line.

Units of the First Cavalry and Sixth Infantry Division were attacking the Japanese line from Taylay, two miles north of Laguna Bay, to Norzagaray, 19 miles northeast of Manila.

At the same time, the 11th Airborne Division continued its rapid drive southward along the west coast of Laguna Bay and crossed the Juan river, 15 miles below Muntinlupa. The thrust brought the airborne units within five miles of Los Banos, where another sensational liberation of Allied internees was carried out Friday.

In resuming the drive toward Luzon's east coast, the sixth infantrymen captured Montilban, 11 miles northeast of Manila, and pushed on through San Isidro, a mile to the north.

Fighter-bombers and dive-bombers steadily supported the troops as they gained as much as five miles at some points in the thrust

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## R. H. Tessier, 20, Killed

Pvt. Robert H. Tessier, 20, infantryman in the U. S. Army, was killed in action in France on Feb. 8, according to a telegram received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Tessier, 596 South Main street.

Pvt. Tessier, who entered the service on Aug. 17, 1944, trained at Camp Croft, S. C. before going overseas in January. He was a graduate of Leavenworth high school and was employed by the Waterbury Tool Division of Vickers prior to his entry in the service.

He is survived by two sisters and five brothers, among whom are Pfc. Raymond Tessier, U. S. Army, in Germany and Pvt. Norman, stationed at Camp Wheeler, Ga., now home on furlough.

Pfc. Irving Swirsky, 21, who was previously reported missing since February 3, is now reported to have been killed in action, according to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Swirsky, 167 Fulton Park avenue.

The infantryman was serving with the Ninth Army. Upon entering the service February 26, 1943, he trained for seven months at the University of Pittsburgh.

Pfc. Swirsky was valedictorian of the graduating class of 1942 at Crosby high school and was a former employee of the U. S. Time Corp.

Surviving besides his parents are a sister, Edna Swirsky, and a brother, Samuel, now serving in the Merchant Marine.

## Hirohito's Palace May Have Been Hit In Twin Superfort-Carrier Raid

### Clemency Considered For Convicted GI's

Paris, February 26. — (UP) — American Army authorities are considering clemency for many of the almost 200 members of the 116th "Millionaires" Railway Battalion who were convicted and sentenced to long prison terms recently for looting military supply trains, it was learned today.

The judge advocate's office will file formal clemency petitions with Major General Pleas B. Rogers, commander of the Seine base section, on behalf of an undisclosed number of the GI's now serving sentences ranging from two to 50 years.

The clemency recommendation are being made at Rogers' request after consultation with Lt. Gen. Ben Lear, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's deputy for morale, who has had several talks with the convicted soldiers.

It was understood the men told Lear they were eager to return to active service. Some of them requested permission to join the Paratroops or front-line Infantry outfits, but the majority wanted to rejoin the Army Railway Service.

The United Press informant said the men whose sentences are commuted will be given six months' probation and offered a chance to join another battalion. Their general attitude as well as the offenses for which they were convicted will be taken into account.

This informant said clemency recommendations probably will not be made for the two convicted officers of the 116th, Lts. John Springer and Norris E. Loop, who were found guilty of receiving cigarettes and food from their men.

However, the charges filed against Sgt. Anthony J. Palermo and Pvt. Edward C. Kelly and Arthur F. Anderson have been dropped and all three will be returned to duty. They had confessed to the theft of cigarettes from military trains, but testified for the prosecution at the courts-martial of Springer and Loop.

## Fifth Takes More Ground

Rome, Feb. 26 — (UP) — Fifth Army forces have improved their positions in the Monte Belvedere-Monte Della Torracella sector, southwest of Bologna, with the capture of additional high ground to the northwest, north and northeast, it was reported today.

In the night flank, artillery pounded enemy troops, vehicles and installations and casualties were inflicted on the enemy by mortars in the Monte Cerere area.

Doughboys clashed with a strong enemy patrol northeast of Castelnuovo, killing six Germans and capturing six.

On the Eighth Army front two strong enemy raiding parties crossed the Senio after a heavy artillery barrage Saturday night and attacked British strongpoints southwest of Salsomaggiore. The attack was driven back after an hour.

Later in the night the Germans attacked again south of Fusignano and opposite San Polito but both raids were repulsed.

Italian patrols in the Vena del Gesso escarpment overlooking the Senio west of Rivola killed eight Germans and wounded 10. Another patrol killed nine and wounded an unknown number.

These patrols, formed by Italian paratroopers of the Folgore Division more than a year ago, were armed by the British and have fought all the way up Italy with the Fifth Army.

Heavy bombers of the 15th U. S. Air Force hit communications in Austria yesterday and blasted a fuel plant and ordnance depot in the Linz area.

The MAAF reported 20 planes hitting from 2,100 sorties.

## More Munitions Appeal Made By Navy Secretary

Guam, Feb. 26 — (UP) — Secretary of Navy James E. Forrestal appealed to the American people at home today for more and more munitions to save the lives of their men fighting on the far-flung battlefronts of the world.

Just back from a tour of the American beachhead on bloody Iwo, where he saw the Stars and Stripes raised triumphantly, Forrestal made his appeal in a radio broadcast from Admiral Chester W. Nimitz's advanced Pacific Fleet headquarters.

The Marines are fighting valiantly on Iwo and have exacted a four-to-one toll in death from the Japanese, he said, but they need an increasing flow of munitions to maintain their fighting edge.

Forrestal explained how the tiny island, only 750 miles from Tokyo, was bombed for 70 successive days, shelled for three straight days by battleships, cruisers and destroyers, and hit intermittently by carrier planes.

"Let me stress here that the tremendous storm of metal thrown on Iwo Jima sharpens again the necessity for the continued output of munitions in our plants at home," the secretary said.

"Only because of that rain of metal could the island be reduced at all. Because of it, our ratio of losses is far less than it otherwise would have been."

## Japs Starved Army Nurses Deliberately

San Francisco, Feb. 26 — (UP) — The "Angels of Bataan," 68 Army nurses returned to this country after three years under a brutal Japanese starvation policy in the Philippines, set about regaining their health today in the Army's Letterman General Hospital.

They arrived at Hamilton Field, Calif., Saturday, aboard four giant Skyliners just three weeks after their liberation in Manila.

After jubilant reunions with relatives who greeted them, the nurses were taken to the hospital.

None were seriously ill. Their major trouble was lack of food. All were thin and a few were emaciated. There was not a mental case among them.

Lt. Gwendolyn Henshaw, an attractive brunette from Los Angeles, said she was "absolutely convinced" the Japanese had deliberately starved the nurses.

"They confiscated our warehouse, although they had plenty of stores of their own," she said. "No one could bring food in. Our weight plummeted down. I lost 40 pounds and some of the others lost even more."

Every U. S. military success brought a reduction in food rations.

## Men 30 To 33 Facing Draft

Washington, Feb. 26 — (UP) — Local draft boards had orders today to begin drafting a large number of the 1,500,000 deferred men in the 30-33 year age brackets.

Selective Service headquarters announced over the week-end that such deferments will be allowed to continue only if the registrant is "necessary" to an essential industry. Heretofore, a man who was simply "engaged" in an essential industry was eligible for deferment.

There was no estimate of the exact number of 30-33 year men who will be called up. But officials said it was a "large number" of men estimated 1,500,000 deferred registrants of those ages would be affected. Men over 30 are expected to make up 30 per cent of the entire draft call by the end of 1945.

"If all other factors are equal," the selective service board said, "a father should be given greater consideration for occupational deferment than a non-father in this age group."

As regards men in the 18 through 29 year brackets, it said the prospect was "bright" they will be called unless the information submitted to local boards by employers indicates that they are "indispensable and irreplaceable" in an essential industry.

## Chinese Advance Through Jungles

Kandy, Ceylon, Feb. 26 — (UP) — British Imperial troops beat off strong Japanese counter-attacks on their Irrawaddy River bridgeheads 28 miles northwest of Mandalay and made slight progress toward the Burma stronghold, a communique reported today.

The communique said heavy fighting was continuing around both bridgeheads, and that the Japanese were suffering "severe" casualties.

Farther northeast, Chinese troops were reported advancing through the jungles below Namtu, 25 miles northwest of Lashio.

Guam, February 26. — (UP) — Much of the center of Tokyo was believed in flaming ruins today following yesterday's record one-two air assault by more than 200 Superfortresses and 1,000 carrier planes.

Some fires may be smoldering on Emperor Hirohito's palace grounds. Bombs fell near the Stables Bureau of the Imperial Household Ministry on the palace grounds as well as near Oniya palace, residence of the Emperor's mother, a mile and a half away, Tokyo said.

(The American Broadcasting station in Europe said about 25,000 square yards in the heart of Tokyo was in flames following the double raid. NBC monitors reported. BBC, headed by Blue Network, said part of the Imperial Guards barracks was demolished by a bomb which fell in the palace precincts.)

(Japanese broadcasts recorded by the FCC said a single Superfortress flew over the Tokyo-Yokohama Metropolitan district and adjacent areas early tonight. Japanese time, Tokyo said that earlier today a single Superfortress flew over Korea.)

Radio Tokyo said "enemy night bombers" following up the daylight raids crossed the Japanese coast in the direction of the capital at 9 p. m. yesterday (Tokyo time), but did not say whether they had dropped any bombs.

Another Attack Likely  
It was expected that planes from Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher's Task Force 58, the world's greatest concentration of aircraft carriers, would send the attack into a second day today.

However, there was no word to this effect from either Pacific fleet headquarters or radio Tokyo up to mid-morning.

At least 1,000—and probably more—tons of demolition and fire bombs were cascaded on Tokyo in heavy raids yesterday. Together, they constituted the heaviest assault ever made on Tokyo, one twice as heavy as the heaviest German raid ever made on London during the height of the 1940-41 blitz and approaching in weight those now being hurled at Germany by the Allies.

Crewmen who manned the great armada of B-29s ever sent aloft said they laid their bombs "right

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## Two Invasion In 2nd Week

Guam, Feb. 26 — (UP) — American Marines have a "firm grip" on nearly half of Iwo and their situation in the bloody battle for the island springboard 750 miles south of Tokyo "grows brighter every day," a ranking Marine officer said today.

The Marines held the east-west runway and two of the north-south runways of Iwo's central air field. They were battling tirelessly to complete the conquest of the base and win more high ground overlooking the northern half of the island.

The most optimistic official pronouncement of the week-long invasion came today from aboard Admiral Richmond Turner's flagship off Iwo. The Marine officer's assertion that the situation was becoming brighter by the day reflected confidence that the Marines were over the hump in the hardest fight of their 168-hour history.

The officer said the Marines had won most of the high ground around the central air field, and now were concentrating on seizing more elevated positions for use in the drive northward on the island.

When the Marines win peaks farther north, they will have excellent observation of the entire northern part of the island, the officer said, and spotters can direct artillery and naval gunfire.

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## DUMB BELLS

